

Volume 22, Issue 12 April 17, 2001
University of Alaska Southeast

The Whalesong

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Dean of Students candidates at UAS

Tyler Bishop
Whalesong Staff

UAS students had the opportunity recently to meet with Dean of Students candidate Paul Kraft. Students met in the Lake Room and asked questions about Kraft's views on student leaders, student retention, and several other topics of interest.



Photo by Scott Foster
Potential Dean, Paul Kraft, visits UAS.

Kraft seemed like a very good candidate for the job. He enjoys the outdoors, which is a plus for anyone coming to Juneau. Kraft is currently working on his doctorate from Montana State University. He is writing his dissertation on traditional freshman students and what difficulties they face in college.

Students will also get to meet Judd

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UAS student election results in

Tyler Bishop
Whalesong Staff

Students made their choice last Tuesday and Wednesday (April 10-11) by electing Mark Graves as Student Body President.

"This was one of the closest races that UAS has ever seen," said Tish Griffin.

Only nine votes separated Mark Graves from his opponent, Walter Hill. Graves, originally a UAA student, transferred here in the fall of 2000. I can personally remember when Graves was running for Senate, and just wanted to get involved and be a part of student government. He was not sure what student government was about, but he definitely knew that he needed to

be a part of it. Graves has been an asset to student government every since: he has been instrumental in getting discounted rates for students at Eaglecrest, Perseverance Theatre, as well as working on issues of fee structure. He appears to have the experience as well as the charisma to succeed in the

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Photo by Scott Foster

The newly-elected student government. (Front, left to right) Jamie Atkinson, Martha Hill, and Emily Wescott - Senators. (Back) Mark Graves - President. (not shown: Katrina Hotch - Vice President)

Is alcohol an issue for UAS students? Should it be?

Summer J. Dorr Murray
Whalesong Staff

Stereotypes and statistics place college students and beer hand-in-hand. Though the question I'm asking is: is this true for UAS? Is college drinking an issue that should be cause for concern, here in Juneau? Perhaps it is.

In every Empire issue there are police blots citing the community crimes or accidents that have taken place the prior night. How often are minor consumings, DUIs, or possession charges listed with college-aged names? More often than you think.

Given this is the age when students party, a couple questions should be addressed: Do they drink responsibly? Are their intoxicated actions acceptable? Should their choices matter to anyone besides the person consuming?

It's the students' choice, granted, though when the person is consuming too much alcohol in college housing, on a road driving under the influence, or providing alcohol to their slightly

younger (underage) friend, when is it no longer the students choice and becomes one of the college, authorities, and the community? Drinking is one thing, though when inebriated people place themselves behind the wheel, they are no longer threatening their own lives but also the people on the road with them.

In *Beer, Booze and Books* by Jim Matthews, results of the 1990-1992 core survey (a statistically reliable and valid research instrument administered on 87 campuses to over 45,000 randomly selected students across the country) stated that approximately 80 percent of college students drink. Though this statistic may not be exact of UAS students, it's doubtful that the statistic is far off target.

UAS college housing permits alcohol consumption on campus by students 21 years and older. Having the temptation across the hall, underage students often drink as well.

Tyler Bishop, former UAS housing resident, comments, "Campus housing is a home of constant peer pressure. There's nothing to do but drink. Your roommates drive you to drink!"

"Campus housing is a home of constant peer pressure. There's nothing to do but drink."

-Tyler Bishop
UAS student

Curious of what the Manager of Housing thought of alcohol on campus, I asked Timi Tullis to comment on how common drinking here at UAS was. "It is a common occurrence. Whether the student drinks on campus or out the road, or up at Eaglecrest, it is an issue. We try to be educational while working with students, proactive in our education, offer

programs, put up info on bulletin boards, etc..."

What is being done in attempts to control alcohol at UAS? "In a perfect world there would be no issues with drinking but that's just not the case. There are issues and it negatively affects our students and residents, with academic

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Friends! **Fun!** **Games!**

sumo-wrestling,
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Music and Free Food!

ALCOHOL continued from page 1

ics and what have you," explains Tullis. "We, like all institutions, do our best to keep the alcohol use under control and work to help students who seem to have an alcohol issue."

The college does try to help, and has drinking consequences in place. "After a student comes to see me about an alcohol violation there is a three-strikes-you're-out policy," Tullis explains. "First, they come and see me. We talk about what happened, etc. They are assigned three hours of community service. Second time, they come to see me again and we set up an alcohol assessment with a counselor from Tongass Counseling Center. Whatever the counselor recommends the student must do to remain in housing. Third and final time, they would see Tish Griffin and usually go on a behavioral contract with us or enroll in an outpatient alcohol program."

With all this balancing of books and beer, I wonder if there have been many incidents involving alcohol? "Yes," reports Tullis, "it is probably the stem of most of the conduct hearings since I have been here in housing, either alcohol alone, or something that occurs because of alcohol."

There are a significant amount of situations where alcohol is being misused here on campus." UAS student Wilson Walz admits, "I've been in two fights in housing, both caused by alcohol consumption."

Since drinking is part of the college lifestyle, it's bound to affect academics, and so I list yet another stat from *Beer, Booze and Books*: "Alcohol is implicated in more than 40 percent of all academic problems and 28 percent of all dropouts. On average, college stu-

dents who drink the most alcohol earn the lowest grades. Students with D or F grade point averages report consuming an average of 9.5 drinks weekly, C students average 5.6 drinks weekly, B students average 4.4 drinks weekly, and A students average 3.1 drinks per week."

According to Matthews, "approximately one person every 20 minutes dies in alcohol-related car crashes and many of these victims are college students." In spite of the educational programs now being conducted, the prevention programs, and the increased enforcement of DUI laws, 33 percent of college students still report driving while under the influence of alcohol.

Acknowledging that 80 percent of my fellow UAS students drink, I'm okay with that. However, having 33 percent of the parties on the road willing to drive frightens me. Maybe they feel fine to drive, maybe they trust themselves to get home safely but would I, the person driving next to them on the highway?

The Mayor's Task Force on Sobriety held a meeting recently where they explained that they are currently targeting underage drinking,

drinking and driving, and alcohol addiction. They all feel that alcohol, not only on the college campus but also in the community, is

a concern.

One of the task force members, Greg Pease, Executive Director of Gastineau Human Services, explains that the task force is working to "reinvent Juneau" in terms of people taking responsibility for their own and other people's actions. He believes that people should start acting like a community by calling people on their behavior. Pease added that "everyone has the responsibility" to participate in their community, and if you don't wish to then "get out."

A real-life example

I met up with a UAS junior who wishes to remain anonymous, who recently received a DUI, and asked him a few questions, hoping to shed some light on why this is fairly common.

Question: First off, why did you drive after drinking?

Reply: I felt like I could drive fine, I felt buzzed but fine to drive.

Q: How much had you drunk before you got into your car?

R: Only 4 Jell-O shots and around 4 beers.

Q: Why did you drive yourself?

R: The bar had closed, and I wanted to go home, so I left.

Q: Were you concerned about getting pulled over or getting into an accident?

R: Yeah, I was paranoid, so I took a couple back roads home.

Q: Does it bother you to have drivers who have been drinking on the road?

R: Of course...well, maybe that's hypocritical.

Another member of the task force also mentioned a startling statistic: The Southeast region drinks more than 97 percent of similar counties in the U.S. (this percentage includes all alcohol purchases, including those made by summer tourists). Is it the darkness and rain that leads Juneauites to the bottle? Whatever the reason, their actions do have consequences, and not always only for themselves.

Campus drinking, driving while intoxicated, and providing alcohol to minors continues a dangerous cycle of highway accidents, criminal records, and less focus on schoolwork. And just because there aren't kegs on campus, fraternity houses and 15,000 students attending UAS, doesn't mean that drinking isn't a problem. It's just not an obvious one.

"Students with D or F grade point averages report consuming an average of 9.5 drinks weekly...[while] A students average 3.1 drinks per week."

-Jim Matthews, Beer, Booze and Books

ELECTION continued from page 1

job. Students also made a statement by electing freshman Katrina Hotch as Vice President. Although Katrina has had no experience on student government her ideas and enthusiasm will go a long way. Jamie Atkinson was also re-elected as a Senator, and Emily Wescott gained a seat on the Senate. Students also wrote in Martha Hill as a student Senator. Student government is receiving a face lift for next Fall and the new voices will be a positive boost for the ongoing success of student government.

DEAN continued from page 1

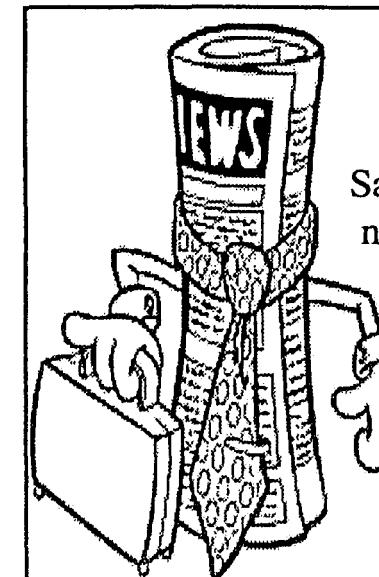
Staples on Tuesday in the Lake Room. Staples received his Ph.D. from Claremont Graduate School in California. He has experience in enrollment management, which was one of the main requirements in filling this position.

I have had the chance to read both resumes and both seem like they would do a really good job at UAS. If you would like to see either resume they will be posted in the Whalesong office.

Thank you for reading and supporting your student paper!

Stop by for free snacks and check out our website on Friday, April 20th after 2 p.m. We'll see you there!

We are located in Rm. 102 downstairs in the Maurant Building



The Whalesong Position Announcement for Fall

Student Assistant IV-Whalesong Advertising Manager

Sales manager for advertising in the student paper. This person will solicit new advertising accounts, create camera-ready ads and provide invoices to Business Services for appropriate billing.

Pay: \$9.25 per hour for a maximum of 20 hours per pay period plus a bonus of 10% of the total advertisement sales that exceed a minimum of \$300.00 per published issue.

Don't Delay! Applications are DUE Wednesday, April 25th.

EDITORIAL & OPINION

The Whalesong

The student voice of UAS

Editor-in-Chief
Seneca Theno

Advertising Manager
M.J. Booth

Production Manager
Amelia Jenkins

Staff Writers
Tyler Bishop
Wilson Walz
Summer J. Dorr Murray

Adviser
Kirk McAllister

Technical Consultant
Dave Kleinpeter

Printing
Golden North Printers

Whalesong Artwork
John Atebury
Sarah Asper-Smith



E-mail: jywale@uas.alaska.edu
Online Edition: whalesongonline
Mail: The Whalesong
11120 Glacier Highway
Juneau, AK 99801
Newsroom: 102 Maurant Bldg.
Phone: (907) 465-6434
Fax: (907) 465-6399

The University of Alaska Southeast student newspaper, The Whalesong, is a free bi-monthly publication with a circulation of 1000 copies per issue. The Whalesong's primary audience includes students, faculty, staff, and community members.

The Whalesong will strive to inform and entertain its readers, analyze and provide commentary on the news, and serve as a public forum for the free exchange of ideas.

The staff of The Whalesong values freedom of expression and encourages reader response. The Whalesong editorial staff assumes no responsibility for the content of material. The views and opinions contained in this paper in no way represent the University of Alaska, and reflect only those of the author(s).

Editor's Note: In place of a personal editorial, I am reprinting a recent letter to the University from President Hamilton emphasizing the freedom of speech for University staff. Follows is an editorial that appeared April 13 in the Wall Street Journal in response to the letter.

Dear Colleagues:

A number of recent events has convinced me that I take the unusual step to state clearly and unambiguously what all of us would take as a given - The University of Alaska acknowledges and espouses the right to freedom of speech.

The recent events I referred to include professors signing a letter to President Clinton urging the preservation of ANWR, the selection of the speaker for

the Bartlett lecture series, and the publishing of the poem, "Indian Girls" by Professor Linda McCarriston.

What I want to make clear and unambiguous is that responses to complaints or demands for action regarding constitutionally guaranteed freedoms of speech CANNOT BE QUALIFIED. Attempts to assuage anger or to demonstrate concern by qualifying our support for free speech serve to cloud what must be a clear message. Noting that, for example, "The University supports the right of free speech, but we intend to check into this matter," or "The University supports the right of free speech, but I have asked Dean X or Provost Y to investigate the circumstances," is unacceptable. There is nothing to "check into," nothing "to investigate."

Opinions expressed by our employees, students, faculty or administrators don't have to be politic or polite. However personally offended we might be, however unfair the association of the University to the opinion might be, I insist that we remain a certain trumpet on this most precious of Constitutional rights.

I am directing you, the Chancellors, to effect wide dissemination of this letter. I would prefer it go forward with your endorsement.

The few and the brave

In a time of evasion and double-speak emanating from the heads of universities, particularly when they're called on to address efforts to suppress free speech, there haven't been many heroes. Nor many exceptions to the dismal ranks of those administrators steadfastly determined to do or say nothing that might run counter to ruling ideologies, or bring down on them, heaven forbid, charges of insensitivity, or demonstrators. Obedience to the prevailing winds is, to these ranks, what a university president's job is all about.

There haven't been, as we say, many exceptions to this pattern, but a few have emerged nonetheless, most recently, and spectacularly, at the University of Alaska. There, President Mark R. Hamilton took the opportunity last month to speak out forcefully on the unassailable right to free speech and, now came the spectacular part, he acted accordingly. This came as the culmination of a now altogether familiar effort to seek punishment of a faculty member for expressing views a particular group deemed offensive, the faculty member being in this case Professor Linda McCarriston, an accomplished poet and a feminist.

For publishing (in the magazine Ice-Floe: International Poetry of the Far North) a poem titled "Indian Girls" about child sexual abuse, Professor McCarriston quickly became the target of protests from Native American groups on campus. Crowds of protesters demonstrated outside her classroom and, soon, as usually happens when colleges face protests, the administrators: the Chairman of Creative Writing and Literary Arts, and the Chancellor of the Anchorage campus, lost no time assuring the complainants that they were on the job, and had indeed already contacted higher authorities to see what action might be taken. So far all was going as usual. The administrators paid careful lip service to the principles of free expression even as they were busy

forwarding the complaint for action, but here all resemblance to the usual ended.

Informed that the department chairman and the chancellor were advancing investigations of Professor McCarriston's alleged offense, and that they were promising to report to the complainants against her, the president of the university fired a directive off to the chancellors of all three campuses. In it Mr. Hamilton made clear that there could be no toleration of attempts to assuage anger or to demonstrate concern that would in any way qualify the university's support for free speech. He took special note of a tendency to say things like

"we support the right to free speech but we intend to check into this matter" or "but I have asked Dean X or Provost Y to investigate the circumstances."

This, said Mark Hamilton, "is unacceptable. There is nothing to 'check into', nothing 'to investigate.'"

Those who have watched the erosion of free speech on the nation's campuses have been waiting a

long time to hear words like that: There is nothing to investigate. We must, he informed the chancellors, "remain a certain trumpet on this most precious of Constitutional rights." Then, with a dispatch whose crispness may have had something to do with his 31 years of military service, Mr. Hamilton directed the chancellors to see that the letter was widely disseminated. Professor Alan C. Kors, of the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE), which took up Professor McCarriston's defense, suggested that freedom of speech was in peril on campus and that the university president was on watch. We'd say Mr. Hamilton proved a most admirable watchman.

He had fought for the Constitution, Mr. Hamilton said, and he was not prepared to see it trashed. We suspect there are more university heads, deans and other administrators out there who hold similar views. With luck they may find their voices.

Letters to the Editor

The Whalesong gladly accepts letters to the editor. Letters may not exceed 300 words, and may be edited for length, clarity, grammar, and taste. Letters must be signed and include a means of contact for verification. Send your letters to 11120 Glacier Hwy, Juneau, AK 99801, jywale@uas.alaska.edu, by fax to (907) 465-6399, or bring them to Room 102, Maurant Bldg.

"Those who have watched the erosion of free speech on the nation's campuses have been waiting a long time to hear words like that..."

-in reference to President Hamilton's letter

When boasts turn to struts, struts become goosesteps

Chris Flanagan
Whalesong Contributor

I was amused to read the Empire and UA President Hamilton draping themselves in the Constitution, issuing statements in support of the constitutional right to free speech most of us tend to enjoy and value more than we're prepared to admit. I've been abroad and seen the alternative. We don't want that. But then I've also lived in towns down South where the paper was bed-owned by some special interest, and we sure don't want that either. Newspapering is a hard job I guess.

I worked at the UAS Whalesong last year where the leader of student government there ran a mean, vitriolic crusade to censor that paper. And some faculty and administration idiotically supported it, and through the whole evolution NOT ONE faculty, administrator, or UAS leader of any kind said ONE public word in support of free speech. In the end, every defender of free speech was purged from the school. In so far as it is a university, an institution of higher learning, the experience was Kafkaesque.

It had been going on for months before I

joined the paper. This student body President was in the habit of barging into the newspaper office condemning words and statements that she demanded be purged and censored. We declined the proposition, but did invite her to write something better. The student body President declined the invitation time and again, and instead marshaled any and all support she could muster to join her in her effort to censor the paper by voting in an editorial board to edit

asked for them to deliver to the paper the moon and stars.

There were no such supporters be they faculty or administration who would simply stand up and state the obvious. Not then, and this was mere months ago. Where was the courage then? Where is it now? I wonder.

I decided I would start attending UAS student government meetings. I said to myself I'd throw everything but the kitchen sink at them, to block any effort to censor the paper.

This was to them "a radical stand." I was not welcomed in those meetings.

With every meeting, the President proposed establishing an editorial board to serve above the paper staff to edit the paper. With every meeting came the subject of just how they would censor the paper. I must admit, I figuratively screamed bloody murder with every re-proposal of this sick ideology. The government body seemed taken

aback, as if I'd crashed their clubhouse. Who was I to stand in their way (historically, no one attends student government meetings; they'd gotten used to owning the floor)? The administrator who sits in on all student government meetings to provide guidance remained mute, or amused and supportive, of this crusade before her eyes, lending at least tacit support and encouragement for the attack on the Whalesong.

In the end, not one UAS leader or faculty would come within a country mile of the conflict on their own campus. I had to leave. I remember wondering, "Where's the Empire? They know this is going on!" I knew that they were aware of the conflict because the student President wrote the Empire pleading her cause, trumpeting her crusade, condemning the Whalesong. I made a few student Senators think more deeply about what their President was foolishly encouraging them to do: to pass a campus censorship law. Toward the end of the semester, in frustration at so far being blocked in their effort to censor the Whalesong, they extended to the Whalesong staff an invitation to hold a public meeting, and in good faith, to together try and reasonably hash out the conflict. At least, that was the good-faith face they put on the offer. But mavens of censorship inevitably have two faces.

There was no good faith found in that meeting room. It was a 50-on-one ambush. The others at the paper knew better than I what would take place at that meeting, so in protest they declined to attend. I was naive and took UAS to their word and showed up. I was the only Whalesong representative to sit through that meeting. It was nothing more than a traumatic politically correct, anti-intellectual mugging. Of the 55 people in attendance, 53 were clearly not there to defend free speech. These people were as vicious and rabid as they were flat out wrong. The insults from these people flew like unguided missiles. Administration and faculty smiled through that meeting, mute.

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"...when the truth was on the line, you taught them several things ... join the herd, cover your ass, find their weak spot, take the easy way out."

-Chris Flanagan, about President Hamilton

out statements and opinions that she and they found to be inappropriate, out of bounds, or radical. This struck me as wrong, this struck me as textbook censorship, and it would have been. President Hamilton just said so.

I had heard through the vine that this student body President was taking up a lot of student government time and resources trying to find, or establish, some higher authority to purge the paper of questionable content. The people who worked at the paper sure seemed to me to be troubled and irritated by what became almost constant criticism, intimidation and personal attacks from these few overly territorial ideological book burners who strutted around as if they owned that public institution.

I was new and didn't really know the score, but wondered to the paper staff, "We'll just DO better, right? And surely faculty, and administration, and a large segment of the student body would support the Whalesong's right to free speech, right? So we'll just get some of these people to make some reasonable statements in support of your right to expression. After all, it is an unqualified expectation, right?" They looked as if I'd



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CENSOR continued from page 6

Through that entire semester I fielded personal and public insults, slights, attacks on my craft, my abilities, my family, and my work mates. What I didn't realize until after the semester was over is that not once did faculty or administration who oversaw this yearlong witch-hunt have the courage to support the paper's right to write. Not once did any of the leaders (sic) make one public acknowledgement of everyone's right to free expression. It was under leadership's heel that we suffered.

The right to free expression seemed far from unquestioned and unqualified. One or two students through the course of the semester acknowledged privately that they thought I was doing the right thing, blocking the calls for censorship from the active student, student government, and faculty calling for censorship, but that's it. Those people said they felt "chilled and afraid" out loud, in that climate around UAS; they wanted me to keep up the good work. The phase when a university campus or community becomes "chilled" by such repression came to UAS a long time ago. As always it came quietly, and no one from the Chancellor's office on down uttered a word in opposition. In that way, UAS invited this poison to its campus.

Most troubling was the fact that while several faculty members jumped on the repressive, book burning, censorship bandwagon to join the student President's crusade to censor the paper, NOT ONE faculty member stood up to defend the paper's and everyone's right to free expression. Not one faculty member publicly stood up and said, "There is no question here! The right to free expression is UNQUALIFIED!" Not once! Never did any administrator, chancellor, or faculty member stand up for what was clearly right. Except for the faculty who joined that intolerant movement, they scattered, and hid.

Almost every Whalesong writer left the University after that semester. Funny, I don't see any names from UAS on that proclamation in support of freedom of speech and expression. I think that's because, as the issue relates to the UAS campus, they got nothing. They can make no claims. Because when the fit hit the shan, the leaders (sic) here were nowhere to be found. When this happens again, will they run again? And

you wonder why education has gone to hell-in-a-handbasket. It's not a LACK OF TESTING! You don't fatten the calf by weighing it. It's not a lack of testing, it's a lack of courage and will, much more human problems.

The Constitution does cover the university, and I'm glad to have heard them admit it, but what I've personally observed is that UAS glows like an angel draped in that sacred document when the cameras are on, but becomes a goose-stepping peacock in the rain when the cameras are turned off, and that sacred document bleeds away from UAS and the Empire like a wet-napkin. Excuse me if I'm not overcome with reverence and admiration when General Hamilton struts.

Unfortunately, President Hamilton, your statement is little more than a SNOW JOB. Still and all, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your statement; at least UA has just begun to talk that walk. Little better than nothing, it is a welcomed beginning. Most troubling, what are you people at UA and UAS teaching these kids, acting as you do? What kind of people do you at UAS think you can turn out, providing this climate of empty proclamations that completely and consistently contradict how you steward that climate when it counts, because when the truth was on the line, you taught them several things I find nowhere in your free speech policy proclamation: join the herd, cover your ass, find their weak spot, take the easy way out. We can do better. We could actually walk the talk.

Finally, it's hard to not note the direction this country has turned. We know its radical fringe too well. Do we have a part of that fringe in our backyards? If we do, we should know and meet them on principle. We need to cherish democratic principles more and the pocketbook less. And from where would that come? The Empire. I just close asking this: is this all news to you?

"We can do better. We can actually walk the talk."

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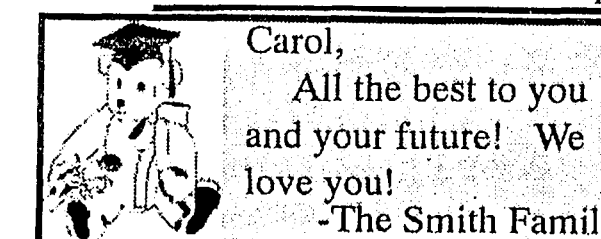
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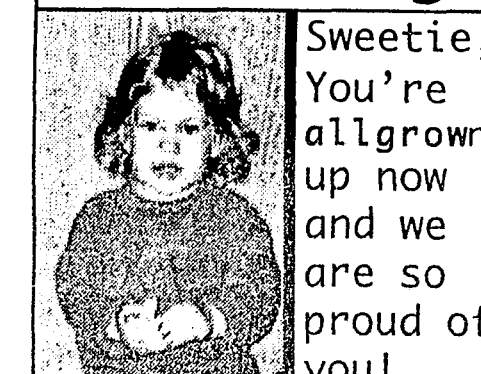
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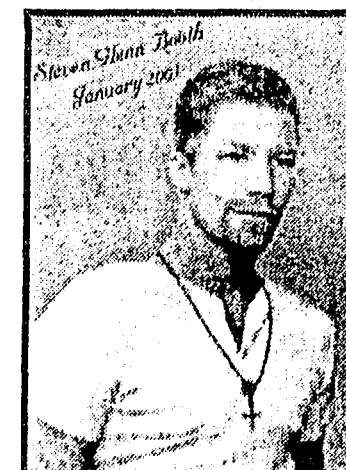
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FEATURES

Living "la dolce vita in Italia"

Eric Morrison
Whalesong Contributor

During the fall semester of 2000 I embarked upon a life-changing adventure that broadened the perspective I have of the world, the United States and myself. I went on an international student exchange to Siena, Italy with my friend and schoolmate Rob Carruth.

I never foresaw myself traveling halfway around the world to go to school, but through a little persistence and a lot of luck I ended up in Siena. Going to school there gave me a limitless opportunity in and out of the classroom to learn about Italian culture, lifestyle, fashion, cuisine, history, as well as myself. It was and is very difficult to take it all in and process the knowledge and experience and apply it to my daily regimen. It was a tremendous overload of the senses and the tail end of my semester abroad is still unraveling and I expect it will for a very long time. The experience flashed before my eyes and at times seems to have been merely a dream.

Studying in Siena began on a whim, with my fancy being tickled by a brochure for the American Heritage Association that gave the opportunity to study Italian language, art and literature while traveling through the country and living under the Tuscan sun. I was heavily curious of Renaissance art and literature and figured that the way to learn about the art and imagine their literature would be to go there and see, smell, hear, touch and taste Italy. The program included room and board, classes, books and excursions to towns and cities relative to subjects of study like Florence,

Milan, Venice, Rome and other smaller towns around Tuscany.

After going through the application process and being accepted into the program I packed my bags and was off to Europe and found myself in Milan with my life in the hands of a *Let's Go Italy* guidebook. I didn't know what to expect and basically came off the plane open minded, wide eyed, with my camera blazing. My expectations quickly proved naive,

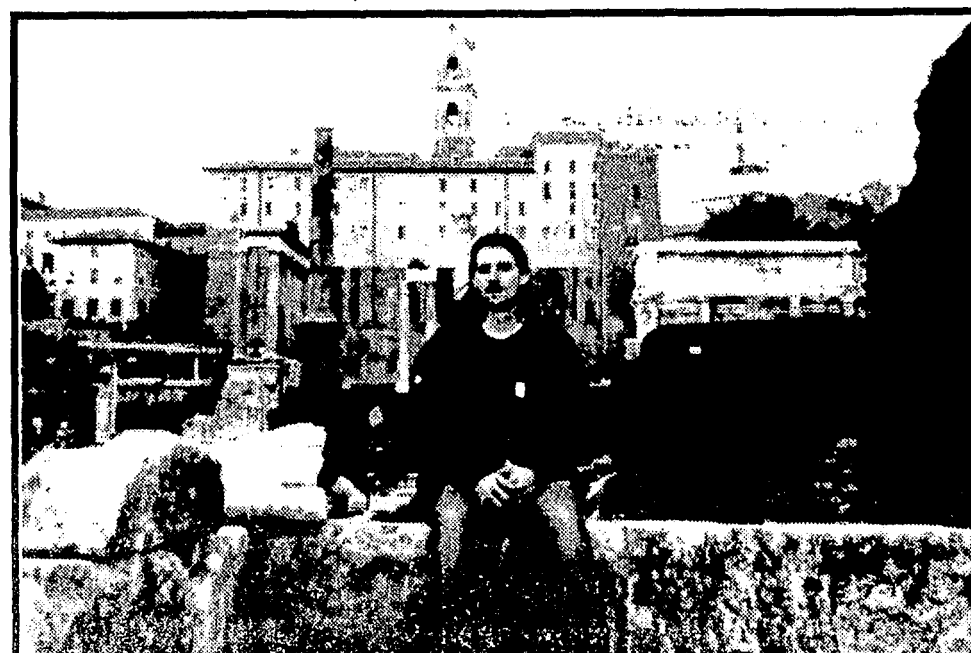


Photo Courtesy of Eric Morrison
Eric Morrison hanging out at the Forum in Rome, the birthplace of democracy.

leaving me perplexed and dumbfounded with an incredible buzz that I had previously never really had. I met up with Rob at the Milan Duomo and we were off to Siena and found ourselves ill prepared without a hotel reservation and wound up sleeping on the Piazza del Campo.

School was quickly underway after a short adjustment period and orientation, and I soon found myself emerged into the hustle and bustle of everyday life in Siena. The classes were truly amazing and my professors were

highly educated in their fields. The students in the program quickly bonded as a group with sub cliques also forming, and there was a mingling of different programs from around the U.S. as well as ones from all over the world. One of the most amazing parts of the experience was mingling with students from all walks of life who were from all corners of the earth. I created strong friendships with people from Scotland, Sweden, Nigeria, Iceland, Russia, Germany, Denmark, Japan, the U.S. and Italy, of course.

The best part of the program for me was by far the excursions to the different museums, monuments and cities spread out throughout the semester. We jam packed as much as we possibly could over the weekends, with our professors being our in-depth tour guides. Some of the highlights were seeing the art at the Uffizi, the Academia in Florence, the Academia in Venice, the Vatican, Sistine Chapel, the Last Supper, the leaning tower of Pisa, the Forum, the Colosseum, Castello Sforzesco, Santa Maria delle Grazie, Santa Maria Novella, Santa Croce, the Piazza della Signoria, and seeing places like Monteriggioni, San Gimignano and Vinci, just to name a few.

I have many cherished moments like getting lost on a foggy night in Venice, clubbing in Milan, eating ice cream in Monteriggioni, drinking wine on a bridge over the Arno in Florence, seeing a full moon peer over the leaning tower of Pisa, and tossing a quarter into the Trevi fountain in Rome. I also had the opportunity to plan several of my own excursions, highlighted by a ski trip to the Swiss Alps, sleeping on a beach in Viareggio and ending with a flight home from Paris.

Continued on page 9

Annual Alaska Folk festival brings Juneau to life

Wilson Walz
Whalesong Staff

When the 27th annual Alaska Folk Festival kicks off this week, UAS will contribute to the musical talent. The festival runs April 16-22 at Centennial Hall. The Alaska Folk Festival is a unique event and can be compared more to a folk life festival than to the folk fests that many people have experienced.

For the most part, no one gets paid. Performers on the main stage have 15-minute sets. Dance sets in the dance hall Thursday through Saturday nights are one hour in length. Applications come out in January and are usually due by the end of February. Performers come from all over Alaska and other Northwest States, as well as from just about everywhere else. Many come from hundreds or thousands of miles away, every year. Performances range from school groups to professionals. The festival is a nonprofit organization funded mostly from memberships. Admittance to the festival itself is free.

Jason Messing, a UAS student, will be performing on Sunday afternoon. He will be performing original works on an acoustic guitar and singing. Jason is an excellent musician and will put on a not-to-miss performance. Another performance that sounds enticing is "Crouching Midgets,

Hidden Beaver" with Scott Jones and Jake Soboleff. Hopefully they'll sound as good as their title is funny! Dr. Todd Walter, UAS professor, is performing Monday evening with Christa Salmon in the duo of "Odd Waters." Former UAS staff Collette Costa returns to the fest with "Costa's Jug Band." As well, "JP's Peewit" featuring UAS student Johnse Ostman and friends Erik Chadwell and Nicole Lantz will be on stage Monday. Come and check out the fun. Even if you don't think that you like folk music, come out and experience the variety of music that is performed. It's probably not what you think, the music performed is best heard and experienced live.

This year the fest is proud to have Woody Lane, an accomplished dance caller, present as well as Brad, Tom, and Alice, a Bluegrass trio, who will be featured as guest artists. The music offered is as wide in its variance as the people who attend.

Many UAS students, faculty, and staff are involved in the fest. Some are performers, others work in or around the event, and some spend their time volunteering at the fest.

Starting Monday the 16th, performances are nightly, starting around 7 pm until Saturday when activities run all day. The weekend offers more than just performances: workshops and dances are some of the enlightening events. Information on the fest is obtainable from the official phone number, (907) 463-3316 and also on the official website at www.juneau.com/aff/.

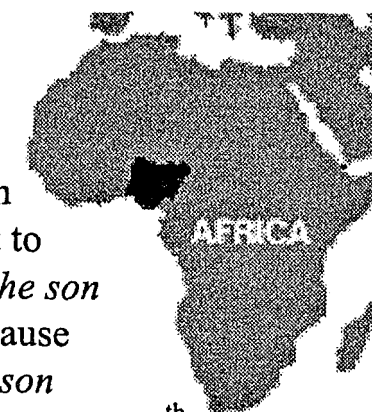
ITALY continued from page 8

My exchange advisor Elizabeth Schelle asked me upon my return what the biggest shock was coming back to the U.S., and I told her that I had not experienced much of a shock. What I have found coming back is a clearer perspective of my life and the elements that make up and revolve around my average day. Also, coming back to school here at UAS after being gone for nearly half a year gave me a new appreciation for this university and the university system as a whole for how good it really is. Seeing first-hand the payoff of the hard work, goals and aspirations that the administration, teachers and students have put into this university to make it what it is has been very encouraging. Mostly I have noticed small things around campus like remodeling projects, a more difficult time finding a place to park, and the new faces and ideas popping up all over campus. It's been an eye-opening experience and goes to show if you put your mind to something and work hard for it that you really can accomplish it, and U of A is a great example of this. Goals are being accomplished everyday here at UAS and it fills me with a great amount of pride to be part of and have a say in this ever-evolving school.

The most important thing I learned being over in Siena for a semester, aside from the importance of Dante's Divine Comedy in Western literature, the technique of fresco, or the conigigation of prosato prossimo, is the realization that all things considered, I have it pretty good; we all have it pretty good, and that I have no right to complain about the meticulous details in my life because all-in-all I do live "la dolce vita." It gave me an opportunity to see first hand how much we take for granted living in the United States, and how many opportunities we have and how many of us pass up incredible opportunities daily. It gave me a great joy for being alive and a new perspective of compassion I have for the entire world. Basically it was a real eye-opening experience and something that will stick with me forever.

Human rights activist, author visits UAS campus

M.J. Booth
Whalesong Staff



Growing up as *the son of* famous human rights activist Ken Saro-Wiwa has got to be hard to deal with especially when *the son* carried some slight resentment to his father's cause and didn't share the same outlook on what *the son* should do with his British education. Saturday, April 7th, "the son," Ken Wiwa read and talked about his book *In the Shadow of a Saint: A Son's Journey to Understand the Legacy of His Father*. Wiwa began the discussion talking about the reasons he wrote the book. He began the book two years after his father was hanged for complicity (eight other activists died along with Saro-Wiwa in November, 1995). Wiwa was searching for a better understanding of his father and his father's devoted cause and while writing he began to understand and reconcile himself with his father's memory, and he also ended up finding himself. "It set me off on a journey," Wiwa stated.

The first section read was about the death of his father. He collected and compiled the story from eyewitness letters and personal knowledge. Before he began reading he explained that the chapter was so far into the book because it took him awhile before he was able to manage the emotional topic. A disturbing tale unfolds as we learn that it took five attempts before General Sani Abacha's executioners succeeded in stealing the life of Ken Saro-Wiwa.

The second piece Wiwa read was about the background of the Ogoni people's story. Explaining the acronym MOSOP (Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People) and the criticisms of the multinational oil company, Shell's pollution.

The third and final section was about Wiwa's "quest" in finding out what it meant to be *the son of*, and about his time in Burma. While in Burma, Wiwa was able to meet and interview Aung San Suu Kyi. Aung San Suu Kyi is the opposition leader in Burma and also had a famous political father who was assassinated.

After his readings Wiwa opened the floor to questions like "Will the country ever recover," to which he answered honestly if somewhat curtly, "I don't know I'm not a prophet...we will try."

The overall message from Wiwa was that we should be aware of environmental issues in other countries and keep the pressure on Shell, even when they win an environmental award in our country. In his opening speech Wiwa said, "My father had a very, very loud voice." It is obvious that while his voice may be used through a different medium, "the son of" Saro-Wiwa has a loud voice of his own and is using it to continue his fathers struggle and the Ogoni people's struggle with Shell Oil Company. Amnesty International should be commended for bringing Ken Wiwa to Juneau and those who attended for the evening will patiently wait until his book is released to read the rest of the story.

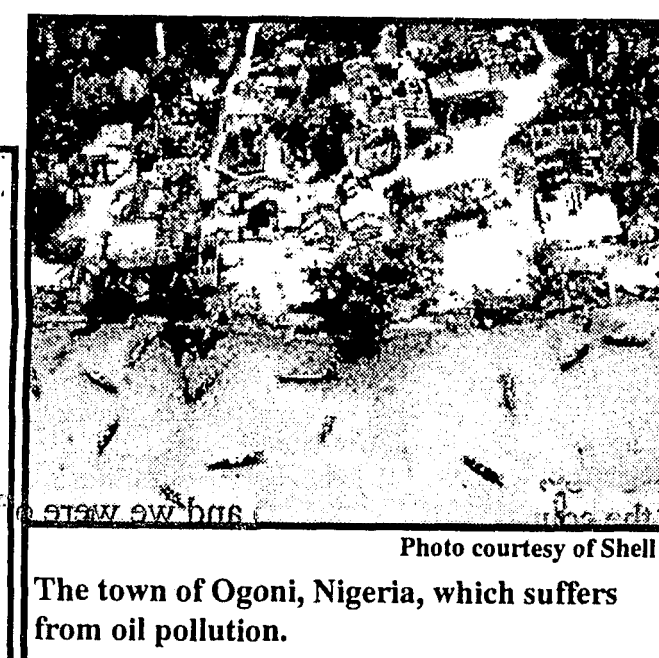


Photo courtesy of Shell
The town of Ogoni, Nigeria, which suffers from oil pollution.

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Celebrate National Poetry Month throughout April

Forever Defeated

Monstrous soul deranged
senses
In the Unknown reaches
Are only another senseless
Boy's endless white beaches.

God's happiness is
His Hell of caresses—sins
Damned religious
Horrible hallucinations.
Drunk machines mad

As magicians,
Ages of chaos had
Stolen his innocence.
Bright demons dance
Next to me,
Screaming in the trance
Of Ecstasy!

Pulsing, the eyes
Cry lonely as seas
Of butterflies
Palpitating ease.
Go Rimbaud—thief
Of fiery skies
Full of grief
Full of lies!

Howl in the clouds
Bloody gold
For heavy shrouds
Filthy hold!
It's high time to
Die up & away!

To Xanadu,
Or who can say?
Love's the slave of
Sheer misery,
But never enough
For you to see.

Doomed Rimbaud, handsome
As the Alp peaks,
Pray for your ransom
With your fresh cheeks.

-JP

Woman

I saw my cervix today
with a duck-billed speculum,
mirror, headlamp

We giggle at anatomy—awkward
when it's mentioned at all
at birth, doctors declare sex
by presence or absence of
penis

I want to hear,
"it's a vulva!"
or

"this child lacks a clitoris;
poor lad, must be a boy"
clitoris—pleasure center
woman—human with a clitoris
woman—I wish it meant delight
wish it meant respect

I—am a woman
want to claim pride without anger
joy without...

without words that stop meaning
words: "injustice" "suffering"
"pain" "torture"

Or,

"clitorodectomy"
"female genital mutilation"
all because of a please center
clitoris, vulva

Or

because of fear
I wish I could stand here,
give answers, explain,
offer instructions to eliminate
sexism

but I do not, have not, will not
understand

I wanted to perform humor,
satire,
so you'd laugh but understand
laugh, but know I was talking about
something bigger, something deeper
laugh, but
nothing is funny

-Meredith Wallis

You

YOU! You there in the mirror
Hair- Legs- Eyebrows- BELLY
SWOLLEN, knocked-up
Heartbeat-quickens-inside-my-round-full-
Fearful-knocked-up-belly-never-asked-for-
Never-conceding-never-demanding-never-
saying

YES

Thump...thump...thump
I don't really know if...

I love you!

I don't really know if...

Do you love me?
My mind fondles death, -life
Ragged dress, ragged shoes,
I must choose-

Check box #1
It's done
I laugh-dance-party-
Work-smile-read-fly-
Airplanes.
They suck you out of me
Like so much raw meat
Flesh within flesh

Check box #2
I get you-
Smiling baby on my knee
NO!!!
Crying, dirty, impoverished,
snotty-nosed-fatherless,
uneducated, naked, oppressed
flesh within flesh
I GAIN- regret

Is it a boy?
Was it a girl?

-Tia Anderson

The following three poems were winners from the Poetry Slam held after the Cindy Pearson concert on March 24. The event was organized by Alexis Easley and Emily Wall. First place is *You*, second place is *Woman*, and third went to *Kahlil Gibran*.

Kahlil Gibran

Let us speak of the tenderness in man.
Yea, I say tenderness; for little has been done to curb
his brazenness,
and violent nature.

The arms that glisten with sweat as the trenches are
dug, the moats are
constructed, cannot these same arms cradle the
tiniest of infants? Rock
away the deepest of fears?

The finger that fits the bullet into its chamber,
cannot these same
fingers give the gentlest of caresses?

Let the truth be told, so that no man be denied his
true birth right:
Though we carry no womb inside of us, we too are
givers of life.

-Gary Fresquez

Ode to Rimbaud

Le voyant, le voyou, le voyage,
The mirror, the mire, the mirage,
Raise sunlit towers,
Ah, patient hours!

Monsieur Rimbaud was born with Christ!
The world is homely,
Love is overcapitalized!
Vae soli! Mon ami, vae soli, comme
filles...

Should Rimbaud ever see Verlaine
In their green Inn—hidden
In heaven again?
In the family of the heart
Their love will never part.
Love Rimbaud's love,
But his misery is more than enough
For us poor children whose Faith's
Put in Death's face...
Never again.

If heaven hadn't been for us
We should have tossed our eyes,
Hurled in the whirlwind,
To annihilate us unconscious,
Shrunken green flesh
Swallowed by the empty thighs
Of death...
O Collapse, horizon's end.

Rimbaud's visions clarified
By lingering mists
Will coil & glide
Through springs Eucharists!

Le voyant, le voyou, le voyage,
The mirror, the mire, the mirage,
Raise windswept flowers,
Ah Cosmos ours!

-JP



Dr. Love and Deb Auchery

Dear Doc and Deb:

I am getting involved with a man-whore. I really like him; I have never met anyone so amazing. He tells me he will stay true to me, but I just do not trust him when it comes to that. How can I tell if he will cheat on me?

Doc Says:

You should try to have one of your friends seduce him and see what he does. Catch him in the act. If you are going to be that evil get ready to face the truth that he might not be that perfect.

Deb Says:

If you don't trust him and you can't see yourself ever trusting him then assume that he will cheat on you and accept it as a part of who he is. If this is not something that you can live with then move on. There is always the possibility that you are his perfect mate and he won't have the desire to cheat on you, but you'll never know until you have more invested into the relationship. The question is, are you willing to take the risk?

Dear Doc and Deb:

My man is too big...Every time he lies on top of me I feel like I am going to get crushed. How can I get him to go to the gym and not McDonalds?

Doc Says:

You need to be subtle about it. Maybe you should start by doing some hiking and then maybe mountain biking. Then start mentioning the gym; get used to doing physical activity with him. Then start complimenting how good he looks. He will enjoy the attention of his new form and will start working out on his own.

Deb Says:

Believe me, guys are very sensitive about size (in oh so many ways) so if you gently tell him you can't breathe next time he's on top of you he'll get the picture. If he is unhealthy you can go about it from the concern-for-his-health approach. Otherwise, just be tactful and straightforward, let him know what you think. You may consider getting on top of him until he starts losing the extra pounds. After all, a big man just means there is more to love.

Dear Doc and Deb:

I miss my girlfriend and kid, but I am trying to get an education to support them. They are in another state and I am here. Should I put school off even longer so that I can be with them or should I trust my girl with my heart and get an education?

Doc Says:

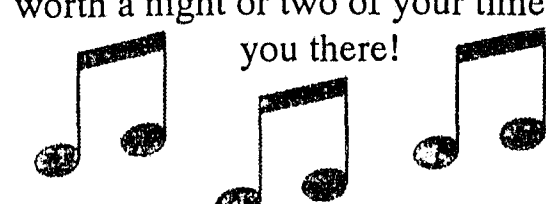
You should definitely get your education. If your girlfriend knows what's best she will keep your heart in a safe place until you return.

Deb Says:

Why are they in a different state? Why not bring them up here? If this is not possible then you have to weigh your options: miss them for a while and get an education that may improve your overall family life or go to them and settle for a job without a formal education.

Preview

Thursday, 19th-Folk Festival Continues. A week-long event at Centennial Hall. So many people are scheduled to play, it's well worth a night or two of your time! See you there!



Friday, 20th-Whalesong Appreciates You Day! Stop by for some hors'd oeuvres. Yeah that's right...FREE FOOD!



Monday, 23rd-Stress Week Activities Begin. Get all the knots worked out BEFORE finals week! Watch flyers for details.

Saturday, 21st-UAS Spring Fling. Get ready to boogie at the Baranof Hotel 9 p.m. Tickets available at Student Activities Office.

Friday, 27th-Reinhard Poetry Reading. Author of two collections of poetry, John Reinhard is coming down from Fairbanks to share with us. 7 p.m. Egan Library.

Friday, 27th-Wine Tasting. 7 p.m. at The Backroom. Can't figure out what kind of wine you like? Or if you like wine at all? Here's your chance to figure it out!

Horoscopes

Capricorn (December 22-January 20)

Romance and long-term friendships may be complicated. Key issues may involve past ideas of success or traditional obligations.

Aquarius (January 21-February 19)

Social routines may be easily disrupted before midweek. Optimism and public acceptance are now a top priority.

Pisces (February 20-March 20)

Business and financial information will adopt a predictable and useful tone. Mental energy and social optimism may briefly fade.

Aries (March 21-April 20)

Expect a recent misunderstanding to now reveal a loved one's private expectations. Opt for honest, forthright communications.

Taurus (April 21-May 20)

Workplace negotiations may be unusually draining this month. New friends and lovers will be delightfully flirtatious.

Gemini (May 21-June 21)

Long-term relationships will now provide added support. Expect loved ones to no longer be socially avoidant or withdrawn.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)

Before midmonth mental energy may be low. Minor details may soon lead to rare business options. A new flirtation may be unavoidable.

Leo (July 23-August 22)

A friendship may soon become romantic. Remain alert to ethical issues and social loyalties. Loved ones may be possessive of your time and attention.

Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Avoid all power struggles. Before mid-May loved ones will be sensitive to issues of public image and social influence. Soon positive money news arrives.

Libra (September 23-October 23)

Resist the urge to join poorly researched or risky procedures. A new lover may boldly express their attraction and long-term intentions.

Scorpio (October 24-November 21)

Public image and social reputation may be important issues over the next few weeks. Watch for friends or colleagues to be unusually sensitive to criticism.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Expect both colleagues and close friends to respond warmly to your invitations. Group identity and social belonging are key issues this month.



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